

REMARKS

Applicants have amended their claims in order to facilitate proceedings in connection with the above-identified application, so as to achieve earliest possible issuance of a U.S. patent based thereon. Specifically, Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of claim 6 into claim 1. In view thereof, Applicants have cancelled claims 5 and 6 without prejudice or disclaimer, and have amended dependency of claim 7.

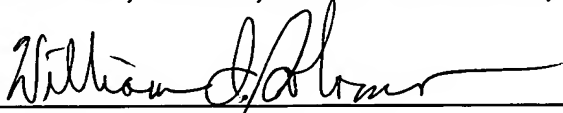
The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 6, set forth in Item 3 on page 4 of the Office Action mailed October 31, 2006. In view of incorporation of subject matter of claim 6 into claim 1, the sole independent claim in the above-identified application, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art rejection of claims set forth in Item 2 on pages 2-4 of the Office Action mailed October 31, 2006, is moot. Accordingly, for conciseness, no further discussion in connection therewith is necessary.

In view of the present amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims remaining in the above-identified application should be allowed. Accordingly, allowance of all remaining claims, and passing of the above-identified application to issue in due course, are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Kindly charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Account No. 01-2135 (case 396.43380X00), and please credit any overpayments to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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